

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114272

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM RANGOON 29 MAY 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT OFFER--GUB RESPONSE

REF: A. RANGOON 1412

B. RANGOON 1413

C. RANGOON 1297

D. STATE 103848

1. SUMMARY: GUB HAS OPTED FOR HUEYS IN RESPONSE TO USG NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT OFFER. GUB WISHES TO COMPLETE AGREEMENT QUICKLY, HOLDING IN ABEYANCE THE QUESTION OF RECEIVING A TECHNICAL TEAM. AS A SEPARATE THOUGH RELATED MATTER, IN ORDER FURTHER TO ACCELERATE ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS, THE GUB INFORMS US THAT IT WISHES TO BUY HUSKIE SPARE PARTS THROUGH THE MILITARY SALES PROGRAM. THE EMBASSY URGES PROMPT DEPT ACTION TO PERMIT EARLIEST POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON THE EQUIPMENT OFFER. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO HOPE FOR DEPT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION, AS APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY, OF GUB INTEREST IN BUYING HUSKIE SPARE PARTS, BUT SEES NO REASON WHY THE TWO MATTERS MUST BE LINKED. END SUMMARY.

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2. RESPONDING TO EMBASSY'S AIDE-MEMOIRE (REFTEL A), GUB, THROUGH ITS SPOKESMAN, U PHI SOE (MFA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL AND ECONOMICS DIV.), INFORMED THE EMBASSY TUESDAY, MAY 28, THAT IT WISHES TO RECEIVE HUEYS, WHICH THE GUB BELIEVES TO BE MORE MODERN, MORE TESTED, TOUGHER, EASIER TO MAINTAIN AND THEREFORE A MORE SUITABLE AIRCRAFT FOR GUB PURPOSES.

3. DURING THE 15-MONTH TIME LAPSE BEFORE HUEYS ARE DELIVERED, THE GUB WOULD LIKE TO STRENGTHEN ITS OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES AGAINST OPIUM CARAVANS BY OBTAINING HUSKIE SPARE PARTS TO UPGRADE THE USEFULNESS OF THE PRESENT HUSKIE FLEET, OF WHICH ONLY 4 OR 5 ARE OPERATIONAL. PYI SOE EMPHASIZED THE GUB'S WISH TO BUY THESE SPARE PARTS THROUGH NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, ALTHOUGH IT HOPED THE USG, THROUGH ITS GOOD OFFICES, MIGHT HELP TO EXPEDITE THIS MILITARY SALES PROGRAM AND ENABLE THE GUB TO PURCHASE SPARE PARTS QUICKLY AND ECONOMICALLY.

4. PYI SOE ADDED, "WE DO NOT WANT TO REVIVE THE MEDT PROGRAM OR ANY OTHER AID PROGRAM. WE BUY MANY MILITARY STORES FROM THE U.K., AUSTRALIA, GERMANY AND OTHER COUNTRIES OUT OF OUR DEFENSE BUDGET AS A NORMAL COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION." BECAUSE THIS IS A REGULAR DEFENSE PROCUREMENT MATTER, PYI SOE SAID THAT GENRAL TIN OO INTENDS HEREAFTER TO WORK WITH OUR USDAO.

5. ACTIONS REQUESTED. A. I RECOMMEND THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF NOTES REGARDING THE PROVISION ON A GRANT BASIS OF NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT AS DRAFTED IN REFTEL C, PARA 3, AS AND IF AMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

B. THE GUB DECISION TO BUY HUSKIE SPARE PARTS HAS NO NECESSARY CONNECTION WITH THE RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER. MOREOVER, THE MAIN PURCHASING MECHANISM AYN PROBABLY BE THROUGH THE GUB MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON. NEVERTHELESS, IF APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY, I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD MIGHT BE ABLE TO FACILITATE THIS PROCUREMENT BY PROVIDING THE GUB RELEVANT ADVICE AND INFORMATION. OSBORN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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